



STATE OF MONTANA
Department of Administration
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DIVISION



Brian Schweitzer
Governor

July 28, 2008

The Department of Administration, Information Technology Services Division (ITSD), is charged by statute (MCA 2-17-512) with the operation and maintenance of a statewide telecommunications network for the use of state government, political subdivisions, and other participating entities under terms and conditions established by the department. Expansion of network bandwidth and capabilities was a major infrastructure initiative approved during the last Legislative session.

The **State and University Multi-protocol Network** (SummitNet) serves state government administrative and business applications, connectivity between state and local governments, citizen access to e-government services, and public safety and public health services. This project provides the communications, equipment and software to support a secure, reliable, scalable, and cost-effective enterprise network environment.

New web-based business applications, e-government initiatives, security, data storage, and internal communications continue to place higher demand on bandwidth requirements. SummitNet bandwidth will be increased to support current and emerging business needs and mission critical applications.

Additional security measures will ensure that only authorized users gain access to the State's resources. This will be accomplished through the development and implementation of a non-state security zone (DMZ).

Today, video and data traffic use separate physical network connections. This project supports the convergence of voice, video and data on a single physical connection allowing for efficiencies in network bandwidth use. The network traffic will be prioritized so that video and data can co-exist.

Based upon a competitive bid process, Bresnan Communications was awarded the contract for the Network Expansion in April 2008. The first phase of the Network Expansion will include converting and upgrading the bandwidth at all county courthouses and all existing dedicated video sites. See attached site list.

In the near future, Bresnan and the State will be contacting local government staff to arrange for site visits and schedule SummitNet upgrades. Every effort will be made to minimize any disruption to network services and insure that local governments will continue to have appropriate access to state applications.

The implementation of this network expansion will begin in September 2008 and proceed through the spring of 2009. Please contact either Carl Hotvedt at chotvedt@mt.gov or Amy Palmer at apalmer@mt.gov if you have questions regarding the network expansion project.

For additional information and go to: <http://itsd.mt.gov/techmt/infrastructure.asp>
Scheduled installations dates will be posted on this website as they become available.